



Press Release

District of Columbia National Guard



Major General Errol R. Schwartz
Commanding General

Lt. Col. Kevin McAndrews
Public Affairs Officer

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DC Guard receives first UH-72 medevac helicopters

WASHINGTON D.C. – The DC National Guard this week became the first Guard organization in the nation to receive the Utility Helicopter-72 configured for medevac missions. The approximately \$5.5-million aircraft will replace the UH-1 “Huey,” a Vietnam vintage chopper currently flown by the 121st Medical Co. (Air Ambulance) stationed at Davison Army Airfield, Va.

“We are proud and excited to receive this awesome new aircraft,” said Errol R. Schwartz, commanding general of the DC National Guard. “It enables us to do the missions we need to be relevant in the 21st century.”

The U.S. Army began fielding the UH-72 to National Guard and active-duty units last year. Three of the eight helicopters slated for fielding to the DC National Guard were flown from Mississippi to Davidson Army Airfield, Va., March 5. Three more will be delivered to the unit later this year, and two more are expected to be fielded at a later date to the DC Guard’s 1/224th Security and Support Detachment also based at Davison. The Security and Support Detachment currently flies the OH-58. These aircraft are among the first 200 new UH-72s that will be fielded to the National Guard over the next several years.

The new helicopter is a twin-engine, fully automated aircraft capable of a much higher performance than the UH-1 or the OH-58. The aircraft can carry loads up to 3,777 pounds at speeds up to 142 knots. It can transport six passengers or up to more than 2,200 pounds of cargo with enough fuel capacity to complete nearly three-hour missions. In the medevac configuration, the aircraft can transport two standard litters, a crew chief and flight medic.

One of the advantages for medevac units like the 121st is the helicopter’s clamshell doors in the back, which makes loading and unloading patients easier and more efficient than loading patients on the side as is done on the UH-1 and Blackhawk.

For more information, contact Lt. Col. Kevin McAndrews at 202-685-9862 or kevin.m.mcandrews@us.army.mil.